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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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EXAMINER

BOYER, CHARLES I

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

1751

DATE MAILED: 10/24/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/789,075

Applicant(s)

CHEUNG ET AL.

Examiner

Charles I. Boyer

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 03 October 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-25 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-25 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 10/3/05.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

This action is responsive to applicants' request for continued examination received October 3, 2005. Claims 1-25 are currently pending.

Double Patenting

1. Claim 10 is objected to under 37 CFR 1.75 as being a substantial duplicate of claim 11. When two claims in an application are duplicates or else are so close in content that they both cover the same thing, despite a slight difference in wording, it is proper after allowing one claim to object to the other as being a substantial duplicate of the allowed claim. See MPEP § 706.03(k).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

1. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

2. Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claim 12 recites an acid constituent, however claim 1 already contains an acid constituent.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

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(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1-4, and 7-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hsu et al, US 6,258,771.

Hsu et al teach a heavy duty liquid detergent capable of suspending large size particles while remaining pourable (see abstract). An example of such a composition comprises propylene glycol, sodium citrate, alkylbenzenesulfonic acid, alkyl ether sulfate, ethoxylated alcohol nonionic surfactant, gellan gum, and gellan gum-encapsulated, suspended capsules 1000 microns in size (col. 21, example 7). Another example comprises stearic acid, alkylbenzenesulfonic acid, ethoxylated alcohol nonionic surfactant, gellan gum, and gellan gum-encapsulated, suspended capsules 3500 microns in size (col. 23, example 12). Suitable suspending agents of the invention include polysaccharide gums such as alginates, gellan gum and xanthan gum (col. 5, lines 24-32). Suitable agents for encapsulation and suspension include bleaches, enzymes, and perfumes (col. 1, lines 28-40). Hsu et al do not specifically teach a combination of gellan gum and xanthan gum. However, as both of these gums are well known in the art, and are taught as suitable gums of the invention, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to formulate a composition containing these two well-known gums with a reasonable expectation of successfully obtaining a thickened, suspending detergent.

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2. Claims 1-9, and 13-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Blandiaux, WO 01/77278 in view of Meine et al, US 6,689,223.

Blandiaux teaches an acidic liquid crystal detergent composition (see abstract). An example of such a composition comprises a sulfonate anionic surfactant, ethoxylated alcohol nonionic surfactant, suspended silicon abrasive, coconut fatty acid, lactic acid, hydroxyethyl cellulose thickener, glycol ether organic solvent, and the balance water wherein the composition has a pH of 3 (page 18, example 1). Suitable thickeners of the invention include xanthan gums (page 8, lines 21-22). Blandiaux does not teach a combination of gellan gum and xanthan gum.

Meine et al teach hard surface cleaners containing a thickening system which includes compounds selected from a group including gellan gum and xanthan gum (col. 14, line 38-42). Accordingly, as both of these gums are well known in the art, and are taught as suitable thickening gums for use in hard surface cleaners, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to use these two well-known thickening gums in the hard surface cleaners of Blandiaux.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Charles I. Boyer whose telephone number is 571 272 1311. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9:30 to 6:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Yogendra Gupta can be reached on 571 272 1316. The

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fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Charles I Boyer
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1751